

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1-6 (cancelled).

7. (new) A telescopic shaft for vehicle steering which is installed in a steering shaft of a vehicle and in which a male shaft and a female shaft are fitted to each other to be capable of transmitting torque therebetween and moving in an axial direction, characterized in that:

torque transmitting member(s) is(are) interposed between at least one set of grooves formed on an outer peripheral surface of said male shaft and on an inner peripheral surface of said female shaft to be extended in the axial direction to face each other; and

a projection which is fitted in at least one said groove extended in the axial direction of said female shaft through a gap is formed on the outer peripheral surface of said male shaft.

8. (new) A telescopic shaft for vehicle steering according to Claim 7, wherein said projection is formed

coaxially with said one of said grooves extended in the axial direction of said male shaft.

9. (new) A telescopic shaft for vehicle steering according to Claim 7, wherein the number of said torque transmitting member(s) in a circumferential direction is the same as a number of said projection(s) in the circumferential direction.

10. (new) A telescopic shaft for vehicle steering according to Claim 7, wherein said female shaft comprises at an end thereof an inward deformation portion which is deformed inward.

11. (new) A telescopic shaft for vehicle steering according to Claim 7, wherein said torque transmitting member(s) comprises at least one spherical body.

12. (new) A telescopic shaft for vehicle steering according to Claim 7, wherein said torque transmitting member(s) comprises at least one columnar body.

13. (new) A telescopic shaft for vehicle steering according to Claim 8, wherein said female shaft comprises

at an end thereof an inward deformation portion which is deformed inward.

14. (new) A telescopic shaft for vehicle steering according to Claim 8, wherein said torque transmitting member(s) comprises at least one spherical body.

15. (new) A telescopic shaft for vehicle steering according to Claim 8, wherein said torque transmitting member(s) comprises at least one columnar body.